

June 12, 1967

Mr. Robert Richter
CBS News
524 West 57th St.,
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Bob,

Here are the two different copies of the Arnold-FBI report of 11/26/63 from Document 3 and the second file, as marked, and the March 18 statement from Document 70 b(d).

All of the markings are on the originals. In the longer report, they seem, in the Xeroxed copy - have, to be Xeroxing marks, as generation followed generation.

These are from Chapter Four, "Three Up, Three Down, Twice" of PHOTO-GRAPHIC WHITEWASH: SUPPRESSED KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PICTURES, which should be out by the middle of July (I hope earlier).

You will recall you asked for the FBI memorandum report on the "Ovelady shirt and I sent it to you. I have the original FBI report from which that was paraphrased telling more of the story (same chapter, same book) if you want it.

You phoned today after John would have left his office. I will call him at his home tonight so that, if he has a busy day tomorrow, he will know of your interest in seeing a copy of CIA WHITEWASH: OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS. As of now, I hope that will be out in about six weeks.

If there is any last-minute checking you want to do, I'll be near home or at home until the morning of the 22nd, when I leave, to return the afternoon of the 25th.

Sincerely,

Harold Weizberg

at diminution of quality and detail, especially as when the shirt almost invisible on the picture to begin with (20M15). The print-version is in black and white, and one can only surmise how remote the original that is.

The color is so far from true in the prints I get that I do not know anyone could have made a positive statement of identification in them. However, it is all immaterial, for there is no question but it, Oswald was wearing but a single shirt when he was arrested. One shirt is one and the same shirt, no matter how referred to.

This is what the great science of the FBI was employed to assure in this monumental investigation of the murder of a President! Unfortunately, it and the Commission do not answer the real question: Is the shirt on the man in the doorway the shirt in which Oswald was arrested? All we know with certainty, and with no thanks to the Report of the ten million words of printed evidence, the staff the FBI, is that the shirt on the man in the doorway cannot possibly be the shirt Loveley said he was wearing and in which he was photographed by the FBI.

Throughout both earlier books I point out Commission evidence Oswald could not have been, at the moment of the assassination, the sixth floor and in that so-called "sniper's nest". There are long indications, aside from the alleged picture, that he was on the first floor at that time and immediately before it. The focus of the Commission and the FBI, quite naturally, is on avoiding evidence or proof that Oswald was on the first floor. During his interview by the police, none of whom, local or national, made any insinuations of any nature or kept a single original note (WHITMAN 5), he seems to have told them accurately what he saw on the first floor, something he could not have done had he then been on the sixth. It is, reasonably enough, is not in the Report, which has other interviews, nor is it stated in the 26 volumes. It merely exists there to dug out and analyzed by those studying the investigation of the assassination. If they are fortunate enough to remember and place together the thoroughly scattered clues.

In two different files I found identical copies of the November 26 report of FBI Agent Richard S. Harrison, who on that day, the day after the assassination, interviewed "Mrs. R. E. Arnold, Secretary, Texas School Book Depository". The copy in file 5 has nothing added. The copy in "Other Individuals and Organizations Interviewed", which is identified as having come from file 5, also has nothing added. The copy in "MOV. 30 1963", which is not on the copy from which this allegedly was made. One therefore wonders how many copies of each of these files there are, or how they may differ in more significant content and notations.

In this interview of November 26, Mrs. Arnold is quoted as saying told Harrison that at a time not positively identified but approximately 12:15 p.m. the day of the assassination, which would right before it.

As she was standing in front of the building she stated she thought she caught a fleeting glimpse of LEE HARVEY OSWALD standing in the hallway between the front door and the double doors leading to the warehouse, located on the first floor. She could not be sure that this was OSWALD, but she said she felt it was ...

This is the FBI retelling of what Mrs. Arnold said, not her usual words.

It would be comforting to be able to reassure the reader that a FBI, ever diligent to protect the rights of the innocent and bend-

ing every effort when it investigated the murder of the President, particularly with the national integrity and honor so especially involved in this case, checked this down to the ground.

I cannot.

The FBI and the Secret Service did interview all employees at work that day. The Commission also interviewed quite a few. I refer to this in WHITMAN II (185ff.), describing its repeated and thrust. This interrogation of each employee was repeated several times. On April 30, 1964, Hoover sent Rankin duplicate copies of each of 73 "signed statements" by each employee at work that day (22H632ff.). This includes one from Mrs. Arnold (22H634). I also have the copy from file 700(d). It is made from the same paper that is printed but, from the Xeroxing marks, is a different copy.

I found not a single case where the FBI asked a witness if he or she had seen Oswald shortly before the assassination, particularly about 12:15 and on the first floor, at or near the front or warehouse doors.

The reader should understand that almost invariably these signed statements are prepared by FBI agents and then signed by the witness. They include only those of the witness's words the FBI chose to record and reflect only what the agents wanted recorded of answers to questions they chose to ask. In this case, as in the other, what Hoover sent the Commission is not the original handwritten statement but a typed copy. This need involve no deceit, for instead of the signatures, the names are typed in following the mark, "s/".

The agents who took an additional statement from Mrs. Carolyn Arnold, identified as Mrs. R. E. Arnold, are E. J. Robertson and Thomas T. Trettle, whose other work we have already had occasion to examine. They interviewed her and she signed the statement on March 18.

In this statement she says that "at the time President Kennedy was shot" she was standing "in front of the building, which covers a rather large area, with a number of other employees, whom she names. This sentence follows:

I did not see Lee Harvey Oswald at the time President Kennedy was shot.

Robertson and Trettle did not ask Mrs. Arnold about seeing Oswald on the first floor right before the President was shot, the reality. They asked her about "at the time the President was shot", a little later than she said she had seen him.

It is worth noting that in the Harrison report of November 26, which Mrs. Arnold never saw, she is said to have told him that she left her office "between 12:00 and 12:15 to go downstairs and stand in front of the building". In the statement that she signed, hence presumably read, whether she or FBI Agents Robertson and Trettle drafted it for her signature, the time given is not "between 12:00 and 12:15" but "about 12:25". The exact words are: "I left the Texas School Book Depository Building at about 12:25."

Mrs. Arnold's office is on the second floor of that building, in the Commission's own timing but a minute from the front door. From this it would seem that she saw Oswald at about 12:25. The FBI's record, the method of its interrogations and reporting and the universal complaints about their lack of fidelity, which did not alarm the Commission as it should have, at the very least justify the belief that Mrs. Arnold's representation of seeing Oswald was considerably more firm than Harrison represents it. The discrepancy in the times is the FBI's alone. It cannot be justified